

# COURT ORDERS RETURN OF TWO CITY OFFICIALS FIRED HERE IN 1954

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# COUNCIL NAMES COMMITTEE TO FIND FUTURE PARK SITE

## Unanimous O.K. Of Plan Voted

Members of the City Council laid aside partisan disputes for a few minutes this week to endorse unanimously a plan to appoint a three-man committee to survey possible park sites in Torrance.

The new move in the park matter came after Councilman Nick Draie suggested the committee and nominated H. R. Black, former Planning Commission member from North Torrance; George A. Bradford, president of the Torrance Optimist Club; and Robert Waegner, former Recreation Commissioner from Waverly, to serve on the three-man committee. They will work with the regularly appointed Recreation Committee on the project.

After Councilman Benstead, who had sought along with Mayor Isen to force immediate condemnation action on 90 acres of valuable industrial land north of the Civic Center, has asked Draie who wrote the motion for him, and why he was bringing "politics" into the picture, the Council voted unanimously to back Draie's plan.

Mrs. Herma Tillin, member of the Recreation Commission and a supporter of the 90-acre plan, told the Council that she thought Draie had a good idea. Mayor Isen, who indicated he might oppose it, wound up saying, "This is all swell, I'm all in favor of it."

Clare Olsen, member of the Recreation Commission, spoke to the Council, saying, "Let's everyone work together, gentlemen; for heaven's sake leave the politics out."

Following adoption of Draie's suggestion, Isen renewed his attempts to file condemnation proceedings against the 90 acres, but was defeated.

## New Group Formed to Endorse Benstead-Jahn-King Ticket

Formation of a new, city-wide Home Owners Association for Better Government was revealed this week simultaneous with an announcement that the group has endorsed three independent candidates for election to the City Council on April 10.

President of the new civic body is W. G. "Bill" Evans, recently retired Torrance police sergeant.

Evans was elected president at an organizational meeting early this week. Although himself a councilman candidate, whose name will appear on the ballot, he had to cancel his own campaign plans after discovering that his retirement pension would be terminated if elected to public office in Torrance.

The Home Owners president who became well known throughout all of Torrance during 25 years on the police force, is widely recognized for his work in curbing juvenile delinquency through organized car clubs and youth groups. He has just been appointed by Mayor Albert Isen as chairman to organize a Torrance Traffic Safety Council in an effort to put a halt to the city's outbreak of traffic fatalities. He also is one of the community's most popular Toastmasters.

Other officers elected by the new association are Mrs. Herma Tillin, community youth activities worker, vice president; Thomas B. Abrams, Victoria Knolls civic leader, secretary; and J. A. Beasley, past president of the Waverly Businessmen's Assn. and active civic leader, treasurer.

Members of the organization's board of directors are Robert Herick, past president of Hollywood Riviera Home Owners; Rose Craig, member of Torrance Business and Professional Women's Club; Jack R. Erving, parliamentarian, Southwest Park Homeowners Assn.; Chris Robinson, Waverly Businessmen's Assn.; Elise Travelli, 35-year resident of Torrance, and Robert Burke, north Torrance civic leader.

Objectives Drawn President Evans said the association drew up more than a dozen objectives on which to base its support of incumbent Victor E. Benstead, Robert B. Jahn and William E. King for the City Council. The main ones are as follows:

1. Work as a unified city and in cooperation with neighboring communities in solving the complex and costly problems of flood control in all sections of Torrance.
2. Prevent the clique which controlled the city eight years ago from doing so again.
3. Keep our City Council representative of the entire city—not just the central section.
4. Increase our recreational facilities and lessen juvenile delinquency.
5. Maintain and improve our



(Herald Photo) KING SIZE EGG... Mrs. Pat Wycoff, of 1633 W. 218th St., looks puzzled as she examines huge egg (right) laid Sunday by one of her year-old chickens. Egg measures 10 inches by 6 inches and weighs six ounces. Another regular size egg is inside the monstrous one, adding to the chicken's accomplishment. Regular size egg is held by Mrs. Wycoff (left) in comparison.

## Cooking Show Begins Today

Cook-O-Rama, the free two-day cooking school sponsored by THE HERALD and the Southern California Gas Co., starts this afternoon at 1:30 in the Civic Auditorium.

Co-sponsoring the event this year is the Torrance Recreation Department, which has arranged for two days of fine entertainment.

Climax of the two days of free cooking classes will be the awarding of a gas range to one of the participants. The woman winner may select the make of her choice.

Many Dealers Help Participating gas dealers for the show include Baker's Furniture and Appliance, Frank's Furniture Store, Liberty Home Appliance Co., and Torrance Heating and Appliance.

Other merchants who will offer prizes to be awarded during the two days include Benstead's Dress Shop, Firststone Stores, GallenKamp Shoes, Gary's Jewelers, Guy's 'n' Dolls, Jansson's Sewing Center, Ladera Garden Shop, Lawson's Jewelers, National Home Appliance, Parrish Stationers, Roth's Markets, and YaKay Yardage Center.

Mrs. Margie Even, outstanding Southern California home economist, will conduct the free two-day school. She will place special emphasis on the new phases of cookery such as the rotisserie broiler, top burner heat control, and show latest recipes and discoveries.

Mrs. McEwen will add a demonstration of the latest gas clothes dryers to the classes.

"Latest models of most anything seem to fascinate Southern Californians, and the new automatic clothes dryers appear to be getting lots of attention," she said.

Show Clothes Dryer Mrs. McEwen will show how to load the dryer as to weight and type of fabrics, manner of setting temperature and time controls and ways to handle special fabrics.

Councilman Benstead has served on the city's official governing body for four years and according to the group, "has

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## Tract Burglary Ring Smashed

Arrest of more than a dozen Los Angeles men recently put the clinch on a series of housing tract burglaries in the Southland, including a number of Torrance burglaries, Detective Capt. Ernie Ashton said here Monday.

Ashton said the gang had been hitting the housing tract trail throughout Los Angeles and Orange counties during the past year and a half. The burglaries comprised a \$100,000 operation at a conservative guess, Ashton added.

Detectives said the local burglaries amounted to about \$20,000 over the period.

Arrested last week for participation in the Torrance burglaries were Forrest Pollard, 31; Rufus Turner, 47; Alvin Turner, 30; Willie Gooding, 42; and A. D. Justice, 30, all of Los Angeles. Other members of the

gang, including suspects who stored, transported and sold the stolen goods were apprehended by other law groups. Since the burglaries occurred in two counties, enforcement officers in Torrance, Gardena and Buena Park and at the Norwalk and Firestone sheriff's stations of Los Angeles County and the Orange County sheriff's station all were in on the apprehension of the suspects.

Draw First Lead Ashton said Orange County deputies drew the first lead in the year-and-a-half search for the suspects. They were informed of a license plate number on a truck used in one of the burglaries and the suspects were apprehended from that lead.

Local detectives stated that arrangement of the suspects had not been set.

They added also that only about a third of the stolen goods, which included all types of plumbing, garbage disposals, hardware and other goods used in house construction is expected to be recovered.

Stored in Garages Authorities said the goods were disposed of from time to time by sale to individuals at bars, service stations, cafes and other public places.

After the burglaries, the stolen articles were kept in a number of garages, some in Los Angeles, some in Long Beach. Pollard was the main recipient of most of the goods, Ashton said, and arranged for the sale of a major portion of the loot.

He added, too, that more arrests are expected to be made in the near future in connection with the wave of tract burglaries.

The Two "Tektets" In the one group are Smith, Draie and Garabrant. They already have received numerous public endorsements as well as favorable approval from many outstanding civic leaders. Active in their behalf are Councilmen Willy Blount and Schwab who have brought their large circle of friends actively into the campaign.

Councilman Benstead, Jahn and King also have received many endorsements including the newly organized Better Government party under the leadership of William Evans who withdrew as a candidate after filing. They have the backing of Mayor Albert Isen and his friends.

The election will be held Tuesday, April 10.

Mothers Plan Easter Egg Hunt March 31

An Easter egg hunt for members of Den 3, Pack 228-C, will be held March 31 at Torrance Park.

Final plans for the event were made at a recent meeting of the Mothers' Club held at the home of Mrs. Arnold Hunsford, 2120 Hobart St.

The next mothers' meeting is to be held at the home of Mrs. Lon Venable, 1559 W. 223rd St., at 7:30 p.m. on April 11.

## Dresser, Smith Return Ordered

The District Court of Appeals yesterday ruled that James B. Dresser and Cecil R. Smith, former city building inspectors, had been unlawfully discharged from the city in 1954 and granted full back salary to the two men from the date their Civil Service Board suspensions were over.

Smith, who had been an assistant building inspector under Dresser, died suddenly last Feb. 8, the day hearings began on the case before the Court of Appeals. His widow, Minnie, has been named special administratrix of the estate and will recover Smith's back salary from May 10, 1954, until Feb. 8, 1956.

Council Erred In ruling in favor of the two men, the Court of Appeals said the City Council has no power to review Civil Service Board of Review findings except in the case of department heads appointed directly by the City Manager.

Dresser and Smith were suspended from their jobs in the building department on March 10, 1954, after a Civil Service Board had reviewed charges brought against them by the city and by state building officials. Smith was given a 90-day suspension and Dresser a 75-day suspension by the board. The City Council overruled the board findings and fired both men.

Pair Appeal The two inspectors appealed the Council's action through Atty. John McCall.

The order to reinstate the two will become effective in about 90 days. In the meantime, the city can appeal the decision to the State Supreme Court.

Local Douglas Workers May Get Contract Negotiators for Douglas Aircraft Co. and the International Assn. of Machinists yesterday reached an agreement on terms of a new contract which will be presented at a mass meeting of employees to be held on Sunday at the Hollywood Legion Stadium.

It would affect 30,000 members of the bargaining unit which includes Local 720, 30 Segundo Division, and Local 1878, Santa Monica Division.

Basic benefits under the agreement are similar to those accepted by the United Auto Workers' union members at Douglas Long Beach, Tucson, Ariz., and Tulsa, Okla., plants last Sunday.

The new contract provides substantial wage increases, a company-paid pension plan and other in-lieu benefits. Under provisions of the contract, the best ever offered to Douglas workers, it will be possible for long-service employees to retire with a monthly income up to \$230, including Social Security. (Continued on Page 9)

## Delinquent Tax Lists Altered

Publication of the tax delinquent list in local newspapers of Los Angeles county was placed in effect Tuesday when the Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to adopt procedure authorized by legislation passed at the 1955 session of the Assembly.

First publication will appear in June and will serve as notice to property owners of their delinquency at the local publication level. Heretofore, the list has been published in one weekly newspaper of small circulation in the northeastern section of the county.

Proponents of the legislation argued that local publication in newspapers, with combined circulation of more than 1,000,000 would cut down the delinquent list and serve as additional notification to real estate delinquents.

Program Outlined The Committee for Good Government stands for: (1) separate school and municipal elections; (2) a well-balanced city with sufficient industry, commerce, homes and schools; (3) fair play in all matters pertaining to Civil Service; (4) adequate police protection for all of Torrance; (5) a Superior Court for Torrance; (6) adequate drainage and flood control throughout the city; (7) more parks, recreation facilities, and a closer understanding between the schools and city in the use of school and municipal recreation facilities; (8) more off-street parking; (9) economy, honesty, integrity and efficiency in government; (10) major highway and street development; (11) alertness at all times to curb delinquency; (12) a chance for citizens to be heard and to vote on all controversial issues; (13) to elect councilmen endorsing this program.

## Good Government Committee Reveals Council Endorsements

The Committee for Good Government has endorsed three candidates for election to the City Council of Torrance at the April 10 Municipal election, according to Ed Karlow, chairman of the large group of prominent and influential citizens which has been formed to bring greater development and better municipal affairs to the city.

Endorsed for re-election is Nicholas O. Draie, resident since 1938 who has served continuously on the City Council for eight years, part of this time as mayor. With the Columbia Steel Co. for 20 years, Draie now is in the real estate and insurance business.

The committee urges the election of Beverly B. Smith, president of the City Planning Commission for six years, resident for 38 years, and an employee of the National Supply Co. during that time. He now is superintendent of service and supply.

Garabrant Backed Also endorsed is Walter A. Garabrant, general contractor who has lived in Torrance since 1947. He is former president of the Hollywood Riviera Homeowners Assn., of the Redondo Rotary Club, and of the Bay chapter of the Building Contractors Assn. He is serving his second term as a director of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce.

The Committee for Good Government, headed by Ed Karlow, himself a former Torrance city councilman, "not only has a definite purpose and program, but is interested in seeing that the men we feel best qualified to carry out this program are elected as councilmen."

"We have investigated the qualifications of all the candidates, and we feel that the three candidates who have pledged themselves to our program should do us large in this very important election for our community, our home, our schools, our children. We need

good men on our City Council, and we invite all those who agree with our program to join with us in this very important work."

# Cook-O-Rama Here Today, Tomorrow